

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: February 26, 2007

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-332-Salem-Grande Ronde No. 1 & Grande Ronde-Boyer #1 Transmission Line Vegetation Management) **Project #: V-E-07/02**

TO: Mark Newbill  
Natural Resource Specialist – TFP/Chemawa

**Proposed Action:** The project activities will be conducted along the Right-of-Way (ROW) of the 115 kV Salem-Grande Ronde No. 1 transmission line corridor between towers 1/1 to 28/8 and includes 115 kV Grande Ronde-Boyer #1 transmission line corridor between towers 1/1 and 6/6. The corridor along this section of the proposed project is 100 feet in width and crosses approximately 35 miles of terrain through suburban, rural residential, and private farmland.

**Location:** The project is located in BPA's Eugene Region in Polk County, Oregon.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

**Description of the Proposal:** BPA is proposing to conduct vegetation control activities along its Pearl-Marion transmission line ROW to remove Douglas-fir, oak, ash, hemlock, red alder, bigleaf maple, wild cherry and cottonwood trees present in the ROW. This will allow low growing plant communities to get established, reducing the number of invasive weeds. The noxious weeds to be controlled are Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry. In addition poison oak will be targeted.

Vegetation will be removed using manual or mechanical methods. Debris will be disposed of using either chip, lop and scatter or mulching techniques. All debris will be scattered along the ROW.

Herbicides will be selectively applied using stump treatment applications to prevent resprouting. Garlon 4 / web oil in a 25 percent mixture will be applied as a stump treatment for hardwood species.

The project is anticipated be completed by the end of the summer of 2007 (approximately 12 weeks). Follow-up foliar treatment of resprouts will occur in the fall of 2007 using Garlon 3 A and Escort (2 percent in water mix).

**Analysis:** A Vegetation Management Checklist was completed for the project in accordance with the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administration's Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285).

Sections 3 of the checklist identifies the natural resources present in the areas of the proposed work. The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the project areas along with applicable mitigation measures.

Water Resources: Waterbodies (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) occurring in the project area are listed in section 3.1 of the Vegetation Management Checklist. Trees in riparian zones will be selectively cut to include only those that will grow into the minimum approach distances of the conductor at maximum sag. Shrubs will not be cut that are less than 10 feet high where ground to conductor clearance allows. No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus eliminating the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. Adjacent to water resources only spot (cut-stump) and localized chemical treatments using practically non-toxic Triclopyr (TEA) will be used.

No drinking water, irrigation wells, or water supplies were identified along the rights of way for this project.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of whether the proposed project will have an effect on any listed species. A species list was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on February 15, 2007 for threatened and endangered species potentially occurring in the project area. In addition, a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted. A determination of “No Effect” was made for all ESA listed species and designated critical habitat for the project.

Essential Fish Habitat: A review of NOAA database identified Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) streams occurring in the project area. Measures identified for water resources will be followed for EFH. A determination was made that this project will have “No Effect” on essential fish habitat.

Cultural Resources: No cultural resources are known for the project area. If a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work will be stopped in the vicinity and the BPA Environmental Specialist, and the BPA archeologist will be contacted.

Re-Vegetation: Native grasses are present on the entire right-of-way and are expected to seed into the areas that will have lightly disturbed soil predominately located on the right-of-way roads.

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally, monitoring for the follow-up herbicide treatment will be in the fall of 2007.

**Findings:** This Supplement Analysis finds that (1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; (2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. This Supplement Analysis also finds the proposed actions will not affect threatened or endangered species. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Andrew B. Chang  
Andrew B. Chang  
Biological Scientist

CONCUR: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce  
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 2-28-07

Attachments:  
Vegetation Management Checklist  
Effects Determination